

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By the Office Action, the specification and Abstract are objected to, and claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 and for obviousness-type double patenting. By this Amendment, the specification, Abstract and claims 1-2 and 15-18 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement with two Forms PTO-1449 was filed on September 3, 2003. Although the Office Action included an initialed copy of one of the Forms PTO-1449, Applicants have not yet received back from the Examiner a copy of the second Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the cited information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the subject Form PTO-1449. Both of the Forms PTO-1449 appear in the Image File Wrapper; however, for the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of that form is attached.

II. Claim For Priority

This application claimed priority to two earlier filed applications filed in Japan, and the certified copies were filed in the parent application. Applicant has not yet received from the Examiner in this application acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copies of the priority applications. The Examiner is requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copies in the next Office Action.

III. Objections to Specification

The specification and Abstract are objected to. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to update the continuity information, and the Abstract is amended to correct grammatical errors.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection Under §112

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

By this Amendment, claims 1-2 and 15-18 are amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-20 are rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,610,251.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, an executed Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

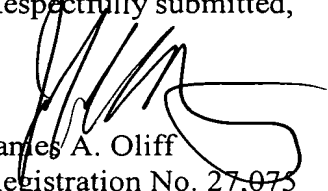
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA

Attachments:

Form PTO-1449
Amended Abstract
Terminal Disclaimer

Date: November 15, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
